

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07822 011553Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W  
-----011814Z 024113 /46

R 011240Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3789  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7822

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJECT: KASHMIR: CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER ARTICLE 370

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 7432, (B) NEW DELHI 7593

1. THE POLITICAL WAVES GENERATED BY SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S SECES-  
SION THREAT IF KASHMIR'S SPECIAL STATUS IS ERODED (REFTEL A)  
HAVE BEGUN TO DIMINISH SOMEWHAT, ALTHOUGH THE JANATA APPEARS  
PREPARED TO SEIZE UPON IT AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE AGAINST THE SHEIKH.

2. PRIME MINISTER DESAI JOINED THE CHORUS OF JANATA AND GOI  
OFFICIALS IN STRONGLY DENYING AT A LUCKNOW PRESS CONFERENCE  
MAY 31 THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY INTENTION OF ALTERING  
ARTICLE 370. THE DAY BEFORE, ABDULLAH HIMSELF APPEARED TO  
RETREAT SOMEWHAT FROM HIS EARLIER POSITION WHEN HE RELEASED  
THE TEXT OF A LETTER TO JANATA PRESIDENT CHANDRA SHEKHAR  
THANKING HIM FOR "CLARIFYING" THE RULING PARTY'S POSITION ON  
KASHMIR. IN HIS LETTER, THE SHEIKH REGRETTEED THAT CERTAIN  
PROMINENT JANATA FIGURES (HE MENTIONED SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY,  
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J.P. NARAYAN AND ASHOK MEHTA) HAD CAUSED CONFUSION AND DOUBTS  
AMONG KASHMIRIS BY THEIR RECENT STATEMENTS ON KASHMIR. WHILE  
RECOGNIZING THAT THE RULING PARTY WAS NEWLY-FORMED HE ASKED  
CHANDRA SHEKHAR TO ENSURE THAT JANATA LEADERS NOT ISSUE SUCH  
CONTRADICTORY AND CONFUSING STATEMENTS. ABDULLAH'S ACTION IS  
REGARDED BY SEVERAL OBSERVERS AS A BACKING DOWN FROM HIS SECES-  
SION THREAT IN THE FACE OF STRONG REACTIONS FROM GOI AND

JANATA LEADERS (REFTEL B).

3. NONETHELESS, THE JANATA'S UNIT IN J&K NOW APPEARS PREPARED TO SEIZE THE ISSUE RAISED BY ABDULLAH AS A WEAPON AGAINST THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. SEVERAL LOCAL JANATA LEADERS CHARGED ON MAY 31 THAT ABDULLAH'S 1975 KASHMIR ACCORD WITH MRS. GANDHI WAS THE FINAL BLOW TO THE STATE'S AUTONOMY SINCE IT MADE ARTICLE 370 "HOLLOW AND USELESS." ALLEGING THAT THROUGH REPEATED COMPROMISES THE CONGRESS AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE HAD ERODED KASHMIR'S AUTONOMY, THE JANATA LEADERS ACCUSED ABDULLAH OF COMMUNALISM AND OF BARTERING AWAY THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF GAINING PERSONAL POWER. WE ARE LIKELY TO HEAR MORE ON THIS SUBJECT AS THE CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY.

4. THE ELECTION COMMISSION HAS SET JUNE 6 AS THE LAST DAY FOR FILING NOMINATION PAPERS IN J&K, WITH JUNE 9 AS THE FINAL DATE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NOMINATIONS.  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECESSION, SPEECHES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 NEW DELHI 7432, 77 NEW DELHI 7593  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KASHMIR: CONTINUING CONTROVERSY OVER ARTICLE 370  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (ABDULLAH, SHEIKH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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